

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 NEAE-00 /074 W

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O P 171445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2429

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0922

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11651: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG

SUBJECT: QADHAFI REACTS TO INTERNAL TROUBLES WITH

"REVOLUTIONARY FIRMNESS"

REF: TRIPOLI 0920 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF HIS DISMANTLING LAST WEEK OF AN
ABORTIVE PLOT AGAINST HIS REGIME,
QADHAFI HAS INDICATED HE WILL FOLLOW A POLICY OF
"REVOLUTIONARY FIRMNESS" TO PURGE UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS. A
SERIES OF NEW RCC DECREES HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED MAKING
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SUBVERSION, CONTACT WITH FOREIGN POWERS, AND OTHER POLITICAL

CRIMES, PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT. IN PROBABLY RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, A NEW "AUDIT COUNCIL" HAS BEEN SET UP TO OVERSEE THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC MONEY, AND THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS BEEN EDITORIALLY DENOUNCED. IT APPEARS THAT QADHAFI HAD AVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF PLOTTING BY TWO RCC MEMBERS. CRITICISM OF EGYPT HAS STOPPED, THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY IS CALM. END SUMMARY.

2. REGIME'S FIRST INDIRECT COMMENT ON LAST WEEK'S INTERNAL TROUBLES, WHICH THE CAIRO PAPERS HAVE NOW MADE PUBLIC, TOOK THE FORM OF AN EDITORIAL IN THE ARMY NEWSPAPER "AL-FATIH" OF AUGUST 16, PROBABLY WRITTEN BY QADHAFI. IN A CALM BUT FIRM TONE, EDITORIAL RECALLS THAT WHILE THE REVOLUTION HAD BEEN BLOODLESS UP TO NOW, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT AT SOME POINT IT WOULD MEET WITH "DIFFICULTIES" IN ITS MARCH. A SMALL GROUP OF "PLOTTERS, HYPOCRITES, AND MUTINEERS" WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO STEAL THE REVOLUTION FROM THE HAND OF THE MASSES (READ COLONEL QADHAFI) AND THEREFORE NEW "REVOLUTIONARY FIRMNESS" IS CALLED FOR. AS A RESULT SOME "WEAKLINGS WITH NARROW MINDS" MAY FALL BY THE WAYSIDE, CRUSHED BY THE REVOLUTION, BUT AS THE REVOLUTION'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES, IT IS TIME TO "PURGE THE REVOLUTIONARY MARCH OF ALL ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE PROVED THEIR APOSTASY AND WEAKNESS".

3. ON AUGUST 17, A SERIES OF NEW RCC DECREES WERE MADE PUBLIC GIVING CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO THIS GET TOUGH POLICY. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO STUDY THEM IN DETAIL, BUT THEY PROVIDE FOR DRACONIAN PENALTIES FOR SUCH CRIMES AS ECONOMIC DEFEATISM, CONTACTING FOREIGN POWERS OR AGENTS, SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT LIBYA ABROAD, SETTING UP POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND ENCOURAGING INTERNAL DISSENSION, INCLUDING THE DEATH PENALTY IN SOME CASES.

4. RELATED DEVELOPMENTS: A SECOND EDITORIAL IN THE PAPER AL-JIHAD CONDEMNS POLITICAL PARTIES, AND IS PROBABLY ALSO A REACTION TO LAST WEEKS' EVENTS. IN ADDITION, AN RCC DECREE WAS ISSUED AUGUST 15 SETTING UP AN "AUDIT COUNCIL" DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE RCC TO OVERSEE THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC FUNDS. THIS SUGGESTS TO US THAT ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN THE AFFAIR. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THE FACT THAT PRIME CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER JALLUD AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT. COL. YUNIS BOTH ADDRESSED MEETINGS OF ASU CADRES LAST WEEK, WHILE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AL-HUMAYDI HAS BEEN TALKING TO THE POLICE AND THE MILITIA, AND FOREIGN MINISTER AL-HUNI IS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO BE ON THE WAY TO LIMA. THE NAMES OF THE RCC MEMBERS IDENTIFIED AS THE PLOTTERS BY THE CAIRO PRESS, ASU SECRETARY GENERAL HAWWADI AND MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MUHAYSHI, ARE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE IN REPORTS OF THESE

ACTIVITIES.

5. MEANWHILE, THE PRESS AND MEDIA CONTINUE TO BE SILENT ON THE SINAI NEGOTIATIONS AND TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO EGYPT OR PRESIDENT SADAT. RECENT PALESTINIAN CRITICISM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS IGNORED, AND OUR MONITORING OF QADHAFI'S EXTERNAL "VOICE OF THE ARAB HOMELAND" SUGGESTS THAT EVEN IT HAS BEEN MUZZLED. WHETHER THIS WILL CONTINUE NOW THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS TAKEN UP QADHAFI'S INTERNAL TROUBLES REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

6. TRIPOLI REMAINS CALM, AND THE BORDERS ARE OPEN AGAIN TO DEPARTING LIBYANS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO CROSSED THE BORDER OVERLAND FROM EGYPT AUGUST 14, TRAFFIC WAS MOVING NORMALLY BOTH WAYS, EGYPTIANS AS WELL AS LIBYANS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE FACTS ARE NOT YET ALL IN, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MUHAYSHI AND HAWWADI, TWO RCC MEMBERS OF NO PARTICULAR DISTINCTION TO WHOM QADHAFI HAD GIVEN IMPORTANT-SOUNDING CIVILIAN TITLES WITHOUT REAL RESPONSIBILITY, WERE CAUGHT PLOTTING AGAINST HIM. IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AT AT THE ASU, HAWWADI CONDUCTED THE TRIAL OF OLD REGIME MILITARY OFFICERS IN 1974 AND EARLIER THIS YEAR, A TASK WHICH DID NOT INCREASE HIS POPULARITY. MUHAYSHI HAS LATELY BEEN SERVING AS THE REGIME'S STUMP SPEAKER, AND HAS TAKEN AN EXTREME ARAB NATIONALIST AND SOCIALIST LINE IN HIS APPEARANCES. THE RCC MEMBERS WITH SENSITIVE POSTS IN THE ARMY (LT. COLS. YUNIS AND KHARRUBI), MINISTER OF INTERIOR AL-HUMAYDI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTELLIGENCE CHIEF AL-HUNI, AND PRIME MINISTER JALLUD DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WITHOUT THEIR BACKING, AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM THE OFFICER CORPS OF THE ARMY, THE ILL-CONSIDERED ENTERPRISE WAS DOOMED FROM THE START. INFACt, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT QADHAFI HAD

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ADVANCE WARNING OF THE PLOTTING. IN A SPEECH AUGUST 3 HE REFERRED OMINOUSLY TO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES, AND ON AUGUST 9 OVER ONE HUNDRED POLICE OFFICERS WERE ABRUPTLY TRANSFERRED TO NEW POSTS.

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